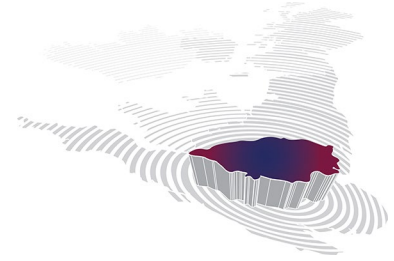




ENGLAND'S
ECONOMIC
HEARTLAND



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22/04/2020

Dear Joe,

Aylesbury Garden Town (and surrounds) Demand Responsive Transport (DRT)

As the Sub-national Transport Body for the Heartland region, England's Economic Heartland (EEH) is delighted to support Buckinghamshire Council's ambitions for a DRT scheme in Aylesbury Garden Town (and surrounding areas).

Aylesbury is strategically located in the Arc region, sitting midway between Oxford and Milton Keynes. The Government has identified the Oxford – Cambridge Arc as a national economic priority. Aylesbury is a key focus for planned growth in the Local Plan, with over 16,000 homes planned in the town by 2033 (some 50% of the total for the district).

The Aylesbury Garden Town project is an exciting opportunity for this growth to be planned in a sustainable and co-ordinated manner and in doing so create an exemplar capable of being applied more widely across England's Shire counties.

As the STB for the region, we are adopting a user-centred approach to our strategic transport planning. This reflects the need for a new approach to the planning, development and delivery of infrastructure priorities: one that places the user at the heart of the transport system and which harnesses innovation to encourage the new business models necessary to meet the Government's net-zero carbon target. We therefore welcome pilots such as DRT, in appropriate locations, in order to support users and help reduce single occupancy car use.

The Heartland region is well known for its advancements in technology and innovation and we are pleased to support the scheme as an innovative approach to a transport issue. EEH is currently undertaking a first mile last mile project, seeking to identify appropriate and sustainable first mile last mile solutions to locales across the Heartland region. Outputs from the first mile last mile tool for Aylesbury show a high potential for bus services like DRT.

Once again, I would like to express our support for a pilot DRT project in Aylesbury Garden Town and its surrounding areas, which we see as an innovative solution, providing an attractive alternative to car use in the town (and surrounding areas).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Tugwell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Tugwell
Programme Director